

WEST LAFAYETTE POLICE MERIT COMMISSION MINUTES

December 8, 2008

The West Lafayette Police Merit Commission met in regular session at 7:30 p.m. in the Lower Level Conference Room at City Hall on December 8, 2008.

Police Merit Commission President Leverenz called the meeting to order and presided.

PRESENT: Commissioners Don Corrigan, Larry Leverenz, and Jill Suitor.

ABSENT: Commissioners Hoggatt and Troyer.

ALSO PRESENT: Councilor Steve Dietrich, Police Chief Dombkowski, Sgt. David VanVactor, and Scott Mawhorter of *The Exponent*.

OLD BUSINESS

Commissioner Corrigan announced that Dr. James LeBreton of Purdue's Department of Psychological Sciences would attend the January 2009 meeting. Dr. LeBreton will review the construction of the promotion examination

NEW BUSINESS

1. Commission President Leverenz read into the record the report from Chief Dombkowski of disciplinary actions:

The West Lafayette Police Merit Commission received notification from Chief Dombkowski of the following summary discipline—

- October 9-Captain Michael Francis was suspended for 4 days (32 hours) without pay
- October 10-Officer Marcus Slifer was suspended for 2 days (20 hours) without pay
- November 7-Officer William Dearing was suspended for 2 days (20 hours) without pay

Mr. Leverenz noted that no action by the Commission was necessary.

2. Chief's Report

Police Chief Dombkowski presented the monthly he provides to the City Council. There was a 1% decrease in service calls when compared to the previous month but an overall increase from 2007. The increase probably was related to the IU-Purdue football game held in late November, and the cold weather associated with most of the November games. The Chief remarked that the Department participated in cultural diversity training from Mr. James Foster of Purdue University. The U.S. Attorney held a regional meeting at the West Lafayette Police Department in November. This meeting reflects a good relationship with the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Northern District of Indiana, and is probably related to the Tippecanoe County Prosecutor's former employment with the Prosecutor in Lake County. Tippecanoe County is known to be a major hub between Chicago in Indianapolis. West Lafayette has two officers currently assigned to federal drug task efforts. The first D.A.R.E. class with new D.A.R.E. Officer Janet Shepherd graduated in November.

3. 2009 Meeting Schedule

Commissioner Corrigan motioned to approve the 2009 meeting schedule, as presented. Commissioner Suitor seconded the motion, and the motion passed.

ITEMS FROM THE FLOOR

Sgt. David VanVactor reported on a recent recruiting summit he attended in California. He presented several ideas that addressed diversity in employment as well as recruitment

in general. His final report will be available at a later date. Commission President Leverenz thanked Sgt. VanVactor for his ideas and indicated that the Merit Commission would support changes in recruitment methods. Police Chief Dombkowski mentioned that he would continue to pursue sound recruitment practices.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Commission President Leverenz welcomed new City Councilor Steve Dietrich to the meeting.

Commissioner Corrigan requested the Commission develop a calendar that will include meeting dates along with other events such as promotion exams and recruitment dates, etc. Commission President Leverenz said that it would be helpful to develop this calendar and asked Counsel Brooks to work on it.

ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Corrigan motioned to adjourn. Commissioner Suitor seconded the motion, and the meeting adjourned, the time being approximately 8:20 p.m.